(b) selecting from said supply HCV positive biological samples, wherein said HCV positive samples comprise either (i) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a polynucleotide that comprises a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from the genome of a hepatitis C virus genome or the complement thereof, or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids encoded by a hepatitis C virus genome.

119. (New) A method of preparing biological samples from human individuals prior to use to prevent transmission of hepatitis C virus (HCV), said method comprising:

(a) providing a supply of human biological samples; and

(b) selecting from said supply HCV positive biological samples, wherein said HCV positive samples comprise either (i) a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from either strand of at least one of the HCV cDNA inserts in the lambda gt-11 cDNA library deposited as ATCC No. 40394 or (ii) antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an HCV polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.

120. (New) A method of preparing biological samples from human individuals comprising:

(a) providing a supply of human biological samples; and

(b) selecting from said supply biological samples that comprise a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides found in either strand of Figure 58.

121. (New) A method of preparing biological samples from human individuals comprising:

(a) providing a supply of human biological samples; and

(b) selecting from said supply biological samples that comprise a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides found in either strand of Figure 14.

122. (New) A method of preparing biological samples from human individuals comprising:

(a) providing a supply of human biological samples; and

(b) selecting from said supply biological samples that comprise a polynucleotide that hybridizes under stringent conditions to a contiguous sequence of at least 15 nucleotides from either strand of at least one of the hepatitis C virus (HCV) cDNA inserts in the lambda gt-11 cDNA library deposited as ATCC No. 40394.

123. (New) A method of preparing biological samples from human individuals comprising:

(a) providing a supply of human biological samples; and

(b) selecting from said supply biological samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 90.

124. (New) A method of preparing biological samples from human individuals comprising:

(a) providing a supply of human biological samples; and

(b) selecting from said supply biological samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with an amino acid sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acids found in Figure 14.

125. (New) A method of preparing biological samples from human individuals comprising:

(a) providing a supply of human biological samples; and

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(b) selecting from said supply biological samples that comprise antibodies that form an antigen-antibody complex with a hepatitis C virus (HCV) polypeptide sequence of at least 10 contiguous amino acid encoded by an HCV cDNA insert in the lambda gt-11 library deposited as ATCC deposit No. 40394.

126. (New) A method according to any of claims 117-122 wherein said stringent conditions permit the formation of a stable hybrid duplex between said polynucleotide and said contiguous sequence and do not permit the formation of a stable duplex between said contiguous sequence and the genomes of Hepatitis B or Hepatitis A viruses.

127. (New) A method according to any of claims 117-122 wherein said polynucleotide is detectable in a PCR assay.

128. (New) A method according to claim 126 wherein said polynucleotide is detectable in a PCR assay.

129. (New) A method according to any of claims 118, 119, and 123-125 wherein said antibodies are detectable in an ELISA or radioimmunoassay.

130. (New) A method according to claim 129 wherein said ELISA or radioimmunoassay employs an antigen comprising said amino acid sequence made by recombinant expression.

131. (New) A method according to claim 130 wherein said antigen is a fusion protein.

132. (New) A method according to any of claims 117-125 wherein said biological samples are blood .

133. (New) A method according to claim 126 wherein said biological samples are blood.

134. (New) A method according to claim 127 wherein said biological samples are blood.

135. (New) A method according to claim 128 wherein said biological samples are blood.

136. (New) A method according to claim 129 wherein said biological samples are blood.

137. (New) A method according to claim 130 wherein said biological samples are blood.

138. (New) A method according to any of claims 117-125 wherein said biological samples are plasma.

139. (New) A method according to claim 126 wherein said biological samples are plasma.

140. (New) A method according to claim 127 wherein said biological samples are plasma.

141. (New) A method according to claim 128 wherein said biological samples are plasma.

142. (New) A method according to claim 129 wherein said biological samples are plasma.

143. (New) A method according to claim 130 wherein said biological samples are plasma.

144. (New) A method according to any of claims 117-125 wherein said biological samples are sera.

145. (New) A method according to claim 126 wherein said biological samples are sera.

146. (New) A method according to claim 127 wherein said biological samples are sera.

147. (New) A method according to claim 128 wherein said biological samples are sera.

148. (New) A method according to claim 129 wherein said biological samples are sera.

149. (New) A method according to claim 130 wherein said biological samples are sera.

150. (New) A method according to claim 132 further comprising employing biological samples that are not selected for a preparation of blood-related products.

151. (New) A method according to claim 133 further comprising employing biological samples that are not selected for a preparation of blood-related products.

152. (New) A method according to claim 138 further comprising employing biological samples that are not selected for a preparation of blood-related products.

153. (New) A method according to claim 139 further comprising employing biological samples that are not selected for a preparation of blood-related products.

154. (New) A method according to claim 132 further comprising employing said selected samples in passive immunotherapy.

155. (New) A method according to claim 133 further comprising employing said selected samples in passive immunotherapy.

156. (New) A method according to claim 138 further comprising employing said selected samples in passive immunotherapy.

157. (New) A method according to claim 142 further comprising employing said selected samples in passive immunotherapy.

158. (New) A method according to claim 132 further comprising employing said samples to prepare polyclonal antibodies.

159. (New) A method according to claim 133 further comprising employing said samples to prepare polyclonal antibodies.

160. (New) A method according to claim 138 further comprising employing said samples to prepare polyclonal antibodies.

161. (New) A method according to claim 142 further comprising employing said samples to prepare polyclonal antibodies.